

Greening the Government

In 2001, INDOT took great strides toward Greening the Government, from establishing recycling programs to reusing waste tires and reclaimed glass in construction projects.

INDOT now has a mission statement for both INDOT employees and motorists who utilize our state roads. The mission statements will be conveyed through a new recycling mascot, still under development, named “Roady Recycler.” Roady, along with the mission statements, will be utilized in public and employee information, signage for recycling containers and additional applications to help express the commitment INDOT has to Greening the Environment where its related work occurs. The mission statements as well as Roady should be visible in the early part of 2002.

Our recycling efforts have resulted in the conservation of the state’s landfill space and the nation’s resources. Amounts of renewable resources recovered at the state level have also significantly reduced the expenditures related to the cost of disposal.

INDOT has targeted these specific waste streams in particular: concrete/asphalt, light bulbs, oil, antifreeze, filters, tires and hazardous wastes.



Reclaimed glass jars and bottles collected in recycling programs from southwest Indiana are crushed and used as a B-borrow substitute in a pipe project on State Road 550 in Bruceville, Knox County, Indiana.

Shop waste is another prominent waste stream that is produced by INDOT facilities. Shop waste is comprised of waste oil, oil filters, antifreeze, clay-based oil absorbents and mineral spirits produced from the maintenance of INDOT vehicles and equipment. INDOT diverted more than 50,000 gallons of liquid waste generated in its facilities from 1997 through 2000.

The diverted waste oil was utilized as a fuel source or as a component to manufacture asphalt in 1997 and 1998. In 1999, the State began a closed-loop program with a Safety Kleen, Inc. to collect all waste oil from state facilities and re-refine the oil for use in state vehicles. Since the beginning of the closed-loop program, INDOT has recycled over 20,000 gallons of waste oil for re-refining.

INDOT has also focused its recycling efforts on tons of steel and aluminum scrap, which is recovered from guardrails, signposts and signs, from INDOT construction projects.

INDOT is currently pilot-testing the reuse of fly ash, foundry sand and coal combustion waste as fill material in construction projects and using waste tires in the construction of roads and as a component in crack sealing compound and road embankment projects.

For the past 11 years, INDOT has taken part in the recycling program that is operated in all state government facilities within Marion County. Between 1998 and 2000, INDOT helped the state save \$120,000 in waste disposal fees. Even better, INDOT sent more than 3,000 tons of office paper, newspaper and magazines to paper recyclers, which earned close to \$50,000 for the state. INDOT, as well as the other state departments within Marion County, also recycled a significant amount of aluminum, steel, plastic and glass beverage containers which minimized the amount of waste discarded in the state’s landfill’s.

By the end of 2001, all INDOT facilities statewide incorporated the recycling of municipal solid waste into daily operations. The Indiana Department of Transportation is striving to be a leader in state government recycling and waste diversion activities.

Success Stories

In 1998-2000, over three million tons of milled surface material were reused for road construction projects in Indiana.

From 1997-2001, INDOT recycled more than 40,000 tires from Indiana landfills (passenger, truck, tractor, loader, grader and super single tires). Whole tires have been remanufactured into playground cover as well as pads for heavy equipment.

From 1997-2001, INDOT recovered and diverted over 1,000 tons of scrap tires from Indiana highways and state roads. The scrap pieces have been utilized as one form of the required daily cover at the state’s landfills.

From 1997-2000, INDOT recycled over 12,000 pounds of light bulbs from the state’s facilities. The components are segregated and recycled into new products. In June of 2000, INDOT’s recycling efforts began to incorporate household batteries and PCB and non-PCB containing ballasts to aid in the effort of waste diversion.